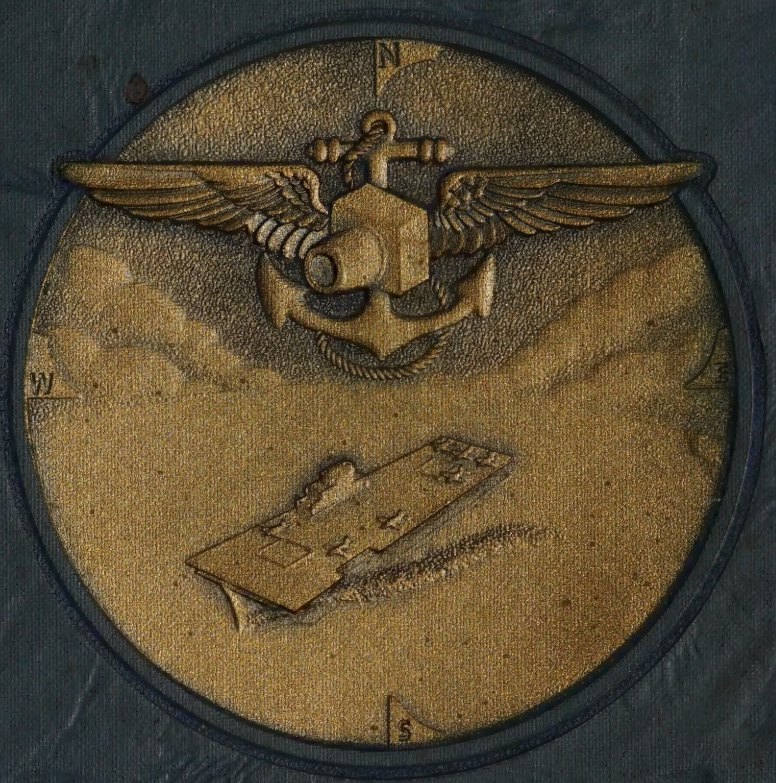
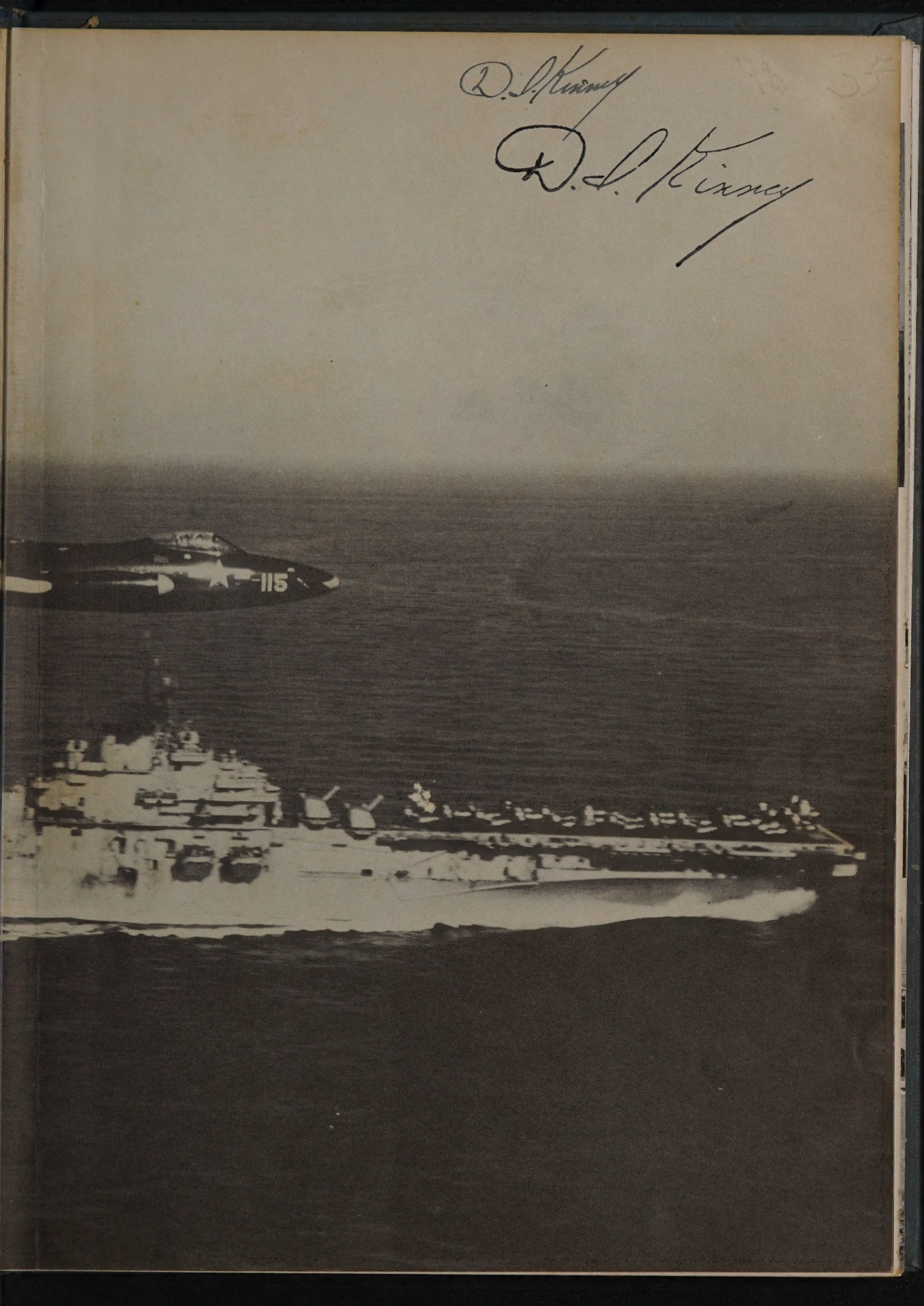


COMPOSITE SQUADRON 61

B
NAVY
110
B

D. L. Kinney

D. L. Kinney



Dedication

Message from the Skipper

This Pictorial Log is proudly dedicated to the officers and men of Composite Squadron SIXTY-ONE. The assemblage was undertaken to present a factual study of the task and mission of a jet, photographic reconnaissance squadron; its problems, accomplishments and aims. The pictorial blending of the serious and humorous, training and combat, working and playing, obstacles and triumphs is dedicated to the perseverance, industry, ingenuity, faith, courage and bravery so eloquently displayed by all members of a Navy team called Composite Squadron SIXTY-ONE. With quiet pride they have labored in the best interests of the Naval Service and their country. In their honor, manifested so illustriously, I do gratefully and proudly dedicate this book.

Howard W. Crews

H. W. CREWS

History

Composite Squadron SIXTY-ONE came into being on 20 January, 1949, as the Navy's first fighter photographic reconnaissance squadron. LCDR Frederick J. BRAZIL assumed command, and with the small nucleus of eight junior officers and four enlisted men, commenced the preparation of VC-61 to fulfill its prescribed mission of providing aerial photographic reconnaissance in support of naval operations. Six Air Groups and FASRON-7 each contributed F8F-2P's each, giving the squadron a total complement of fourteen aircraft.

In January of 1950, VC-61 and VP-61 merged to become a more versatile photographic squadron. Commander William H. DAVISON assumed command and VC-61 had multi-engine photo detachments in Labrador and Alaska, in addition to those carrier based.

Commander Carl D. SIMONSEN arrived on 26 February, 1950, and relieved CDR DAVISON as Commanding Officer. His Executive Officer, Commander Lester S. WALL, Jr., tragically lost his life in a plane crash on 5 April. The Bureau of Naval Personnel quickly found an extremely well-qualified replacement in the person of Commander Howard W. CREWS and detailed him to VC-61.

The treacherous attack by the North Koreans in June of 1950 brought to a halt such peacetime projects as Detachment ABLE-50 Oriental Cruise and Operation "MICKEY." VC-61 settled down to the serious business of providing combat aerial photographic reconnaissance. Six F4U Corsair photo planes were acquired and on 3 July, 1950, a two-plane F4U detachment, under Lt. L. W. MOFFIT, departed for the Korean area on the U.S.S. Philippine Sea.

serious business of providing combat aerial photographic reconnaissance. Six F4U Corsair photo planes were acquired and on 3 July, 1950, a two-plane F4U detachment, under Lt. L. W. MOFFIT, departed for the Korean area on the U.S.S. Philippine Sea.

Starting in late July the personnel count of VC-61 grew phenomenally. For example, in the short span of three months, the number of officers assigned to VC-61 grew from forty-five to ninety-five. The greater portion of these new officers were fighter pilots and ComAirPac was compelled to assign seventeen World War II F6F photo planes as a stop-gap measure to insure proper training and photo plane availability. However, in the fall, the insistence of VC-61 won out and the first photo-configured F9F jet aircraft was assigned. In October, VC-61's first jet photo detachment departed for the Korean theater, with Lt. Charles A. HOOPER, Jr., as Officer-in-Charge.

In January of 1951, orders came from Washington to split VC-61 into two squadrons, separating the fighter type aircraft from the multi-engine. Once again VC-61 became strictly a carrier-type, fighter photographic reconnaissance squadron. Commander Howard W. CREWS remained and assumed the helm as Commanding Officer. LCDR Don DIETZ reported aboard as Executive Officer.

Slowly but surely, the number of jets assigned to VC-61 increased as word came back from the Korean area describing the eager acceptance of VC-61's product. The immeasurable intelligence value of aerial photographs of enemy installations was quickly recognized and the number of VC-61 combat missions increased rapidly.

The parent squadron at Miramar increased the tempo of its activity and, with splendid effort by Lt. SHAFER, developed a much needed, one-second recycling camera. This proved a boon, enabling pilots to pass over targets at a greater speed, minimizing the danger of being hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire.

On 15 July, 1951, LCDR Philip E. SOUZA reported aboard as Executive Officer. During this month it was realized that tactics currently employed by enemy forces in Korea indicated a definite need for night photographic reconnaissance, by carrier-based aircraft. VC-61 inaugurated a night photographic development project, utilizing a borrowed TBM-3E and an F9F-2P. This project, named "Operation FIREFLY," came to a highly successful conclusion in September.

The versatility of VC-61 was displayed again when the Bureau of Aeronautics sent, for test and evaluation, an oblique sight for pilots' use on oblique photographic missions. This sight, while workable, was not completely practicable, and VC-61 designed and manufactured a simpler and more practical plastic oblique sight.

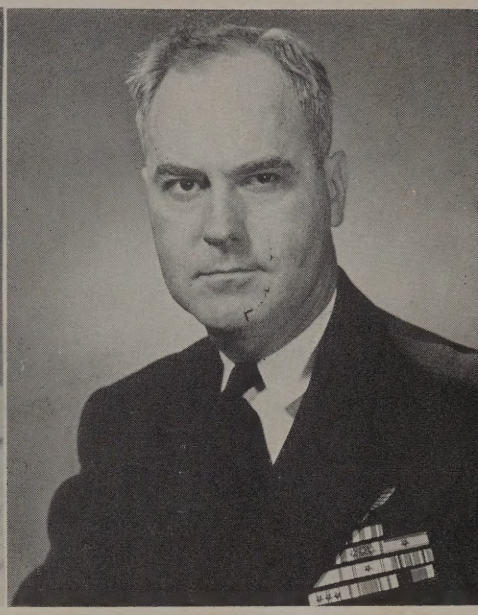
Always seeking improvement, VC-61 acquired the F2H-2P Banshee, capable of carrying more cameras and of larger, more effective focal lengths. A comprehensive series of tests on the various ways of processing, fixing, washing, drying, marking and printing of aerial reconnaissance photographs has been and continues to be conducted. A study of the abilities of black and white, infra-red, camouflage detection and regular color films has been made to record the speed of chlorophyll deterioration and disclose cut foliage.

At the time of this printing, VC-61 photo pilots have flown approximately 2,500 combat aerial photographic reconnaissance missions over North Korea. Lt. Charles A. HOOPER, Jr., while on his second combat tour in Korea as a VC-61 detachment leader, became the first Navy pilot to fly 100 jet combat missions over Korea from an aircraft carrier. Despite the heavy concentration of flak thrown up by the Communists and the deliberate photographing of enemy anti-aircraft installations, VC-61 has lost only three planes and one pilot to enemy fire. The combat experienced, flak-wise pilots of VC-61 have expressed an "undressed feeling" because they fly with cameras instead of guns, but they are justly proud of their product and of its immeasurable value in our fight against the Communists.

Commanding Officers

LCDR F. J. Brazil

CDR C. D. Simonsen

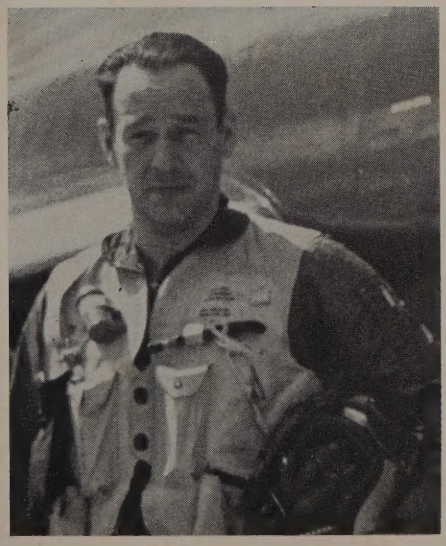


CDR H. W. Crews

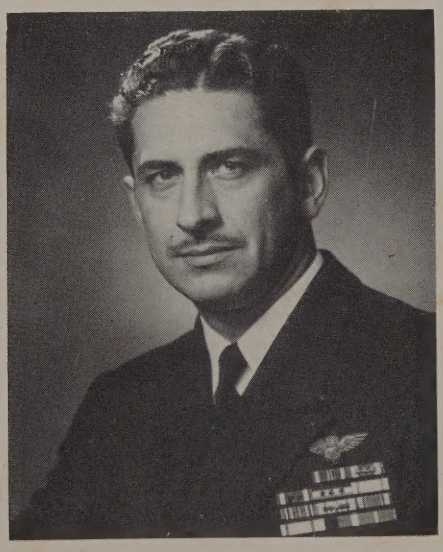
Executive Officers

CDR L. S. Wall

LCDR F. J. Gibson



LCDR W. D. Dietz



LCDR P. E. Souza

Original VC-61

Early Days of VC-61

1951

Administrative-

1952

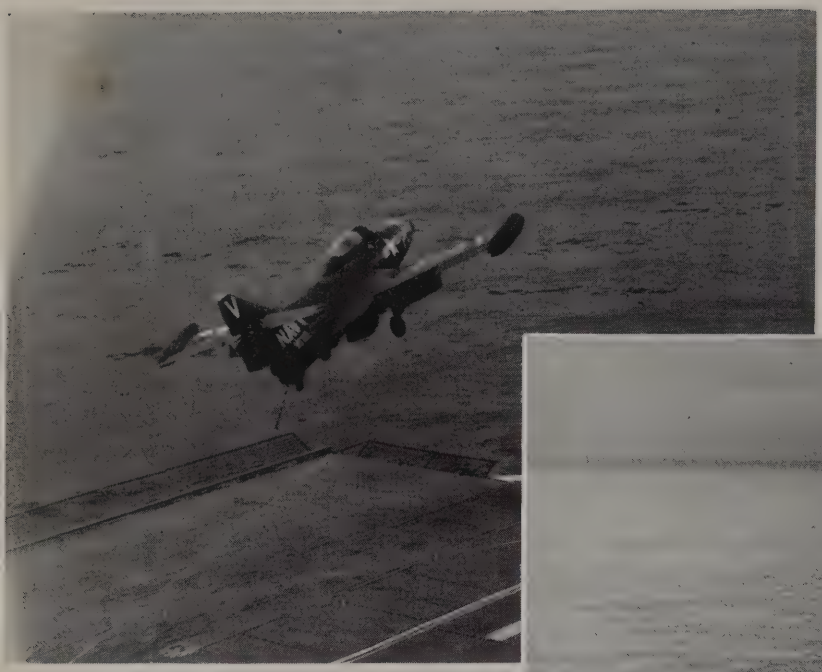
Materiel Inspections

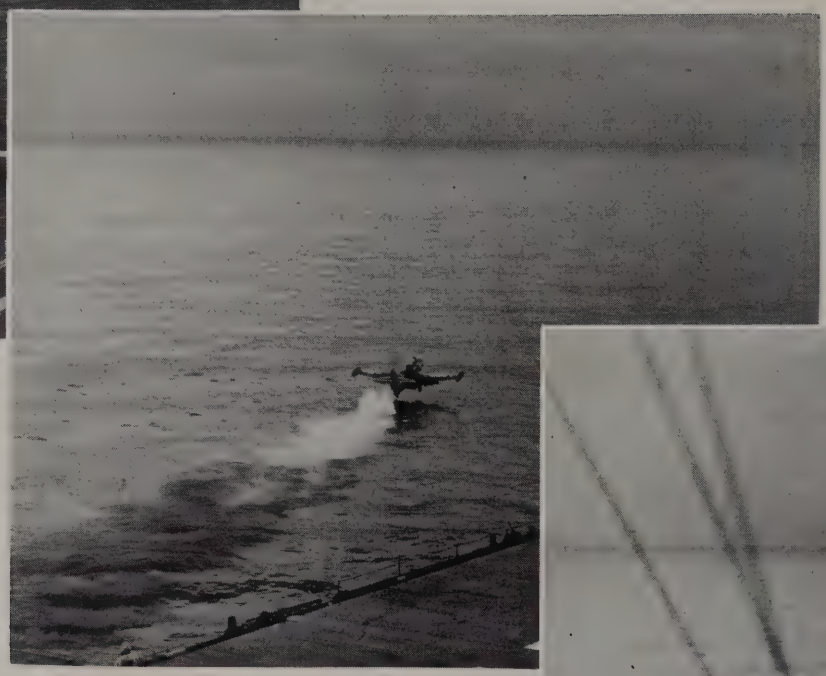
Squadron

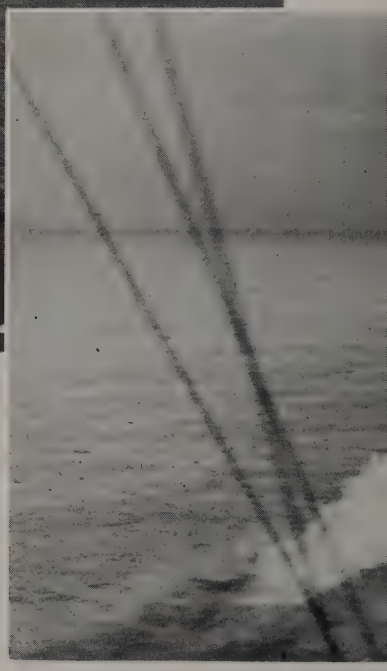
1951

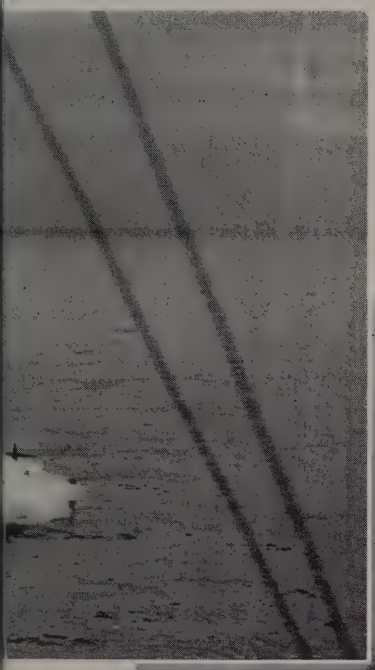
Picnics

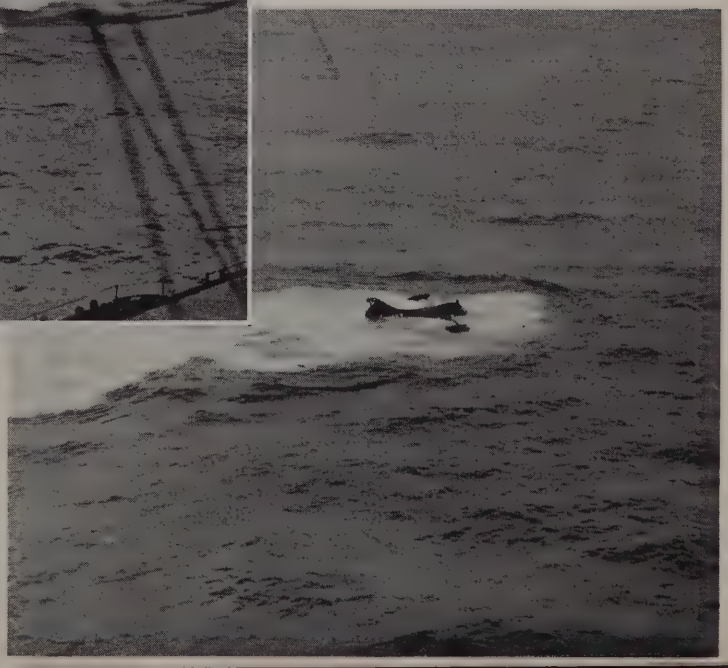
1952



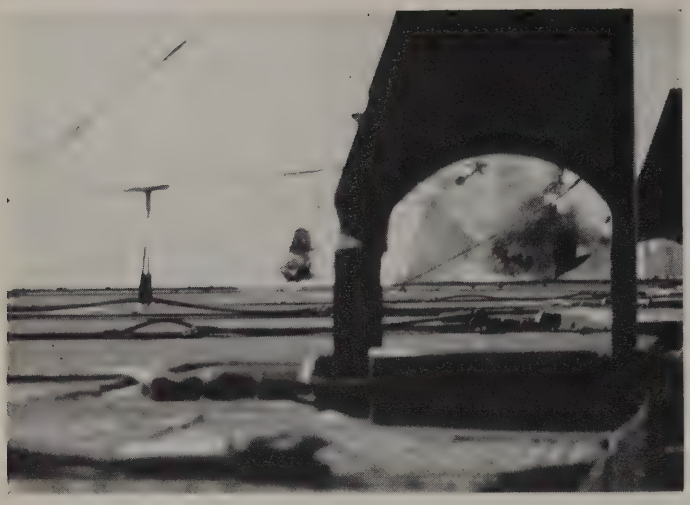








"Low and Slow"



COMPOSITE SQUADRON
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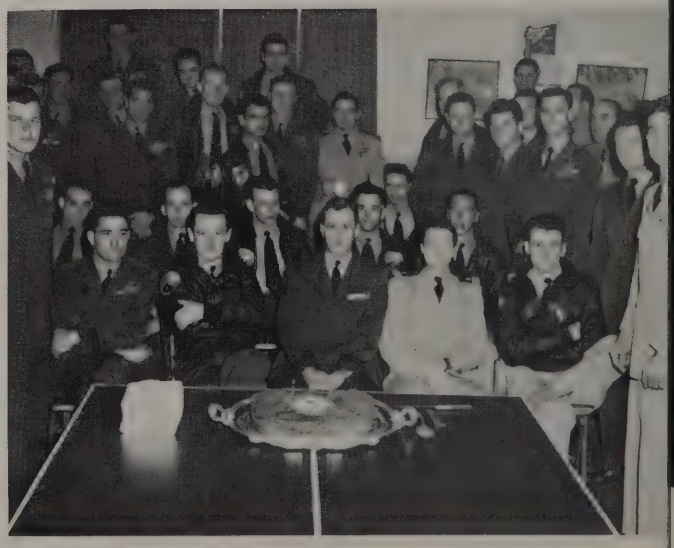
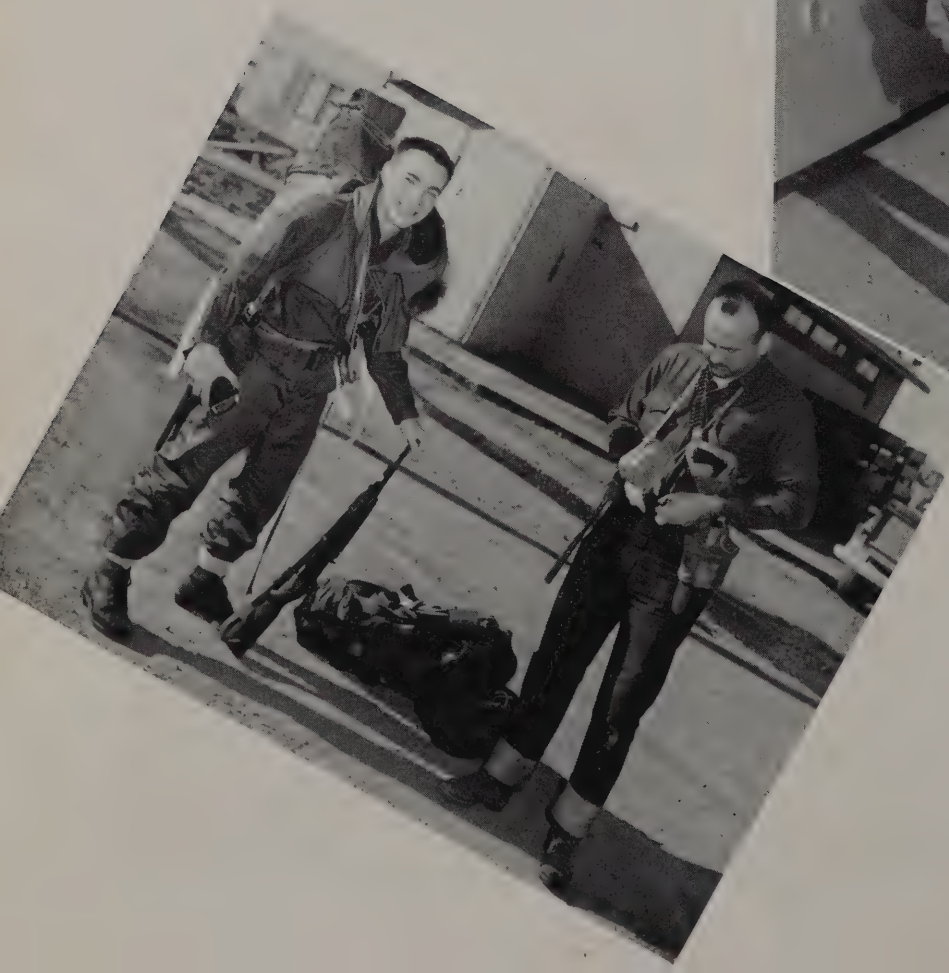
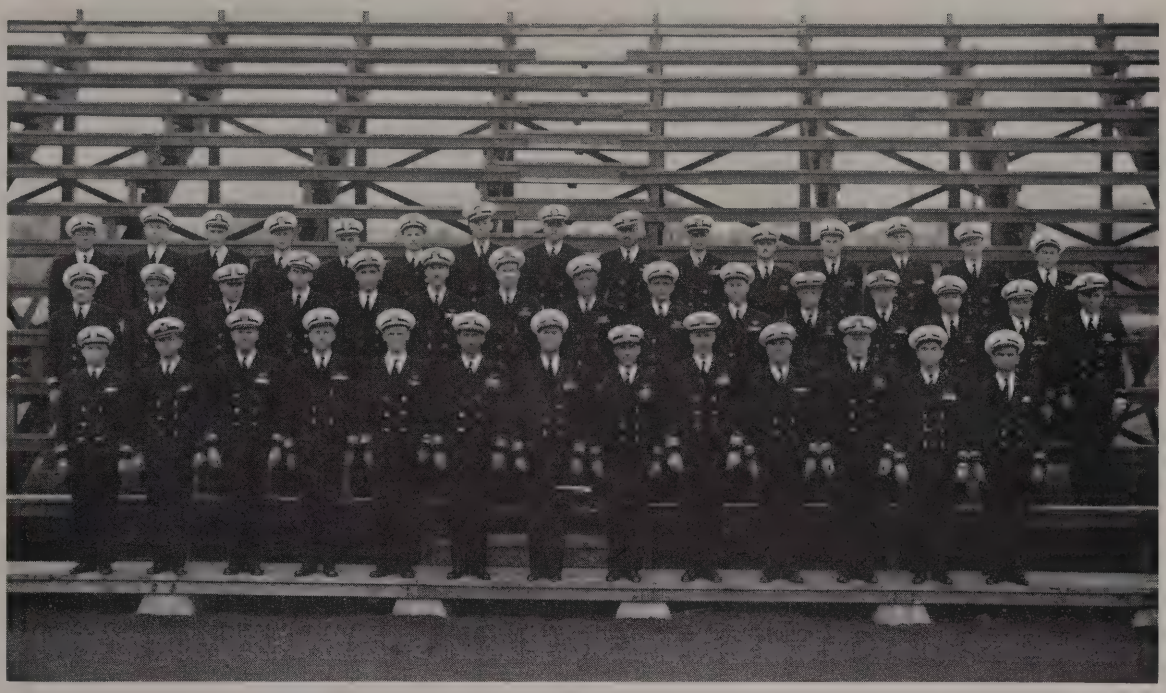
Squadron 1951 1952 Anniversaries



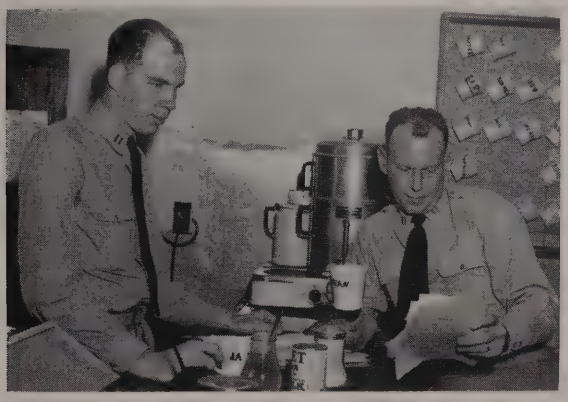
Survival Hike

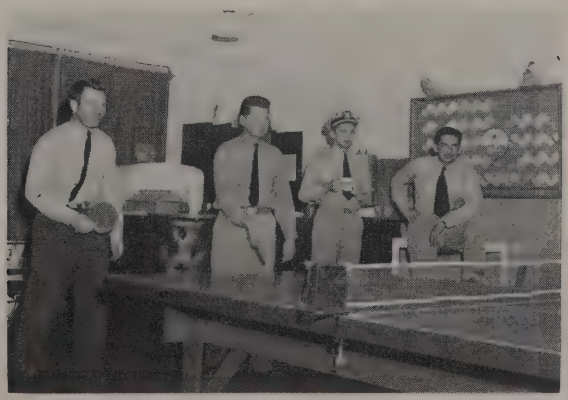


Officers



Front row, left to right: Grosser, J. F., Morrell, J. A., Elmies, G., Toler, J. H., Garvey, H. M., Souza, P. E., Crews, H. W., Cormier, R. L., Tompkins, H. A., Slaughter, G. O. D., Awtrey, Jr., R. K., McDermott, B. F., Brown, R. N. **Second row:** Boyhan, M. W., Murray, R. E., Kinney, D. I., Hearn, S. H., Westmoreland, W. J., Hosier, Jr., R. S., Roop, J. H., Bartol, R. G., Kubik, J. A., Jackson, D. G., Clark, W. E., Davis, W. G., Endacott, J. A., Yeagle, C. H., Somerville, R. T. **Third row:** Hammond, J. C., Birdt, M. S., Burnham, C. E., Smith, B. R., Jaynes, S. L., Bennett, Jr., A. K., Choyce, C. V., Dutch, G. B., Keefe, Jr., W. J., Friesbie, C. N., Von Roenn, K. F., Powell, R. D., Colvin, L. A. D., Cullison, C. D., Lyon, L. E.



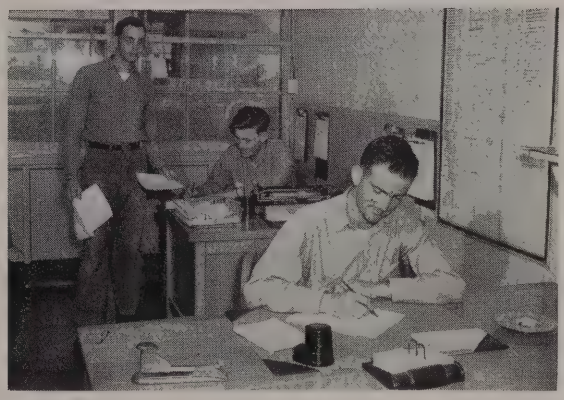


Chief Petty Officers

Front row, left to right: Clingenpeel, W. K., Morrison, C. B., Lanahan, E. C., Souza, P. E., Crews, H. W., DeWoody, L., Maddock, J. M., Hein, R. A., Good, H. K. **Second row:** Spease, R. J., Walker, R. C., Harvey, B. F., Taylor, J. F., Lane, Jr., T. S., Souza, E. F., Settle, T. I., Dyson, J. D., Price, R. E. **Third row:** Tanner, L.M., Bianchi, L. L., Dykema, R. A., Costantino, N. V., Lyons, P. J., Joy, A. J., Kraushaar, J. F.

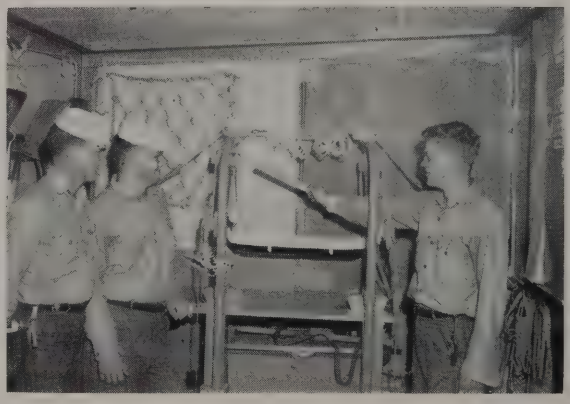
Administration

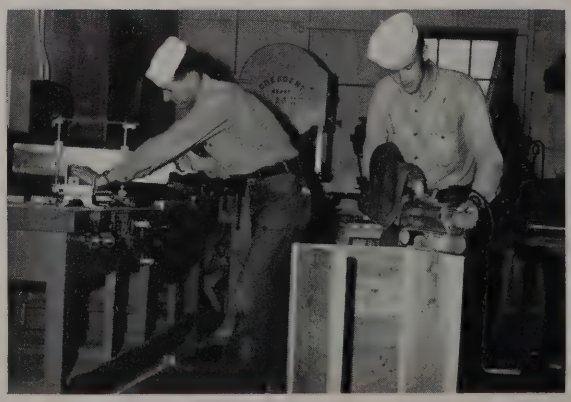
Front row, left to right: Huprich, J. H., Mayrbat, B. J., Tanner, L. M., Kubik, J. A., Slaughter, G. O., Harvey, B. F., Raap, J. R., Harvey, M. E. **Second row:** Beard, M. L., Flanagan, Jr., G. J., Prybylo, L. D., Goetz, R. L., Lawless, R. L., Neitzel, H. B., Eaton, A. B., Rozier, H. F.



First Lieutenant

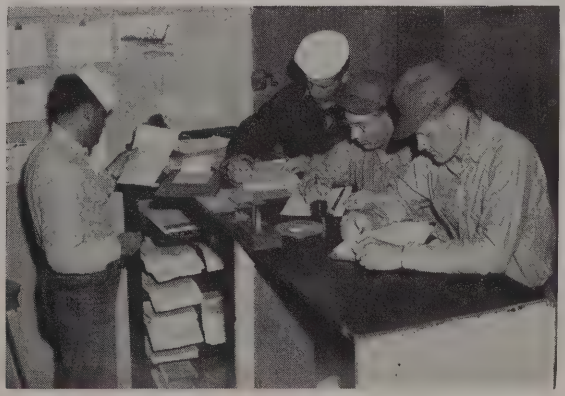
Front row, left to right: Burnette, J. M., Gatlin, E. F., Olson, D. A., Clark, W. E., Slaughter, G. O., Maddock, J. M., Dean, J. E., Hill, D. V. **Second row:** McCormack, L. A., Watson, D. H., Heath, J. C., Wellborn, F. G., Rostek, W. F., Bonar, L. W., Miller, E. J., Irwin, F. W.





Operations—1st Division

Front row, left to right: Clendenin, B. H., Wadell, J. C., Jackson, D. G., Tompkins, H. A., Jamison, R. L., Ries, R. E. **Second row:** Barnett, R. G., Walker, J. C., Cadematori, H. L., Braig, O. L., Mraz, R. J., Card, A.

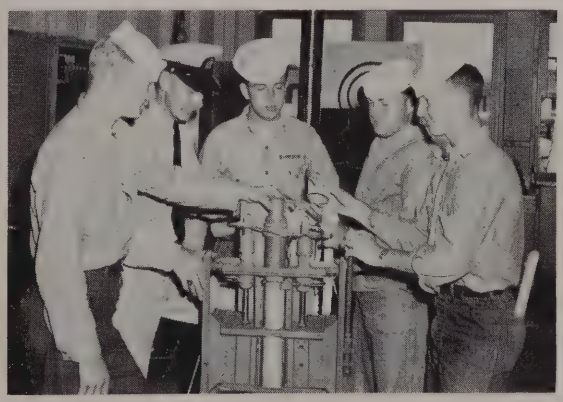


Operations—2nd Division

Front row, left to right: Warnke, E. H., Souza, E. F., Brown, R. N., Tompkins, H. A., Clingenpeel, W. K., Walker, R. C. **Second row:** Halford, J. K., Seay, C. L., Gillerstrom, L. E., Bynum, W. H., Aldridge, K. L., Gagnebin, R. T., Harrison, J. L. **Third row:** Snyder, C. L., Staley, R. W., Stone, W. E., Wilfong, L. R., O'Donnell, C. R., Maxwell, K. J., Moore, C. G.

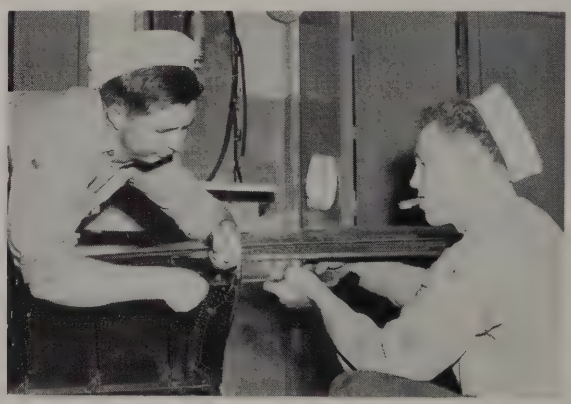
Power Plants and Ordnance

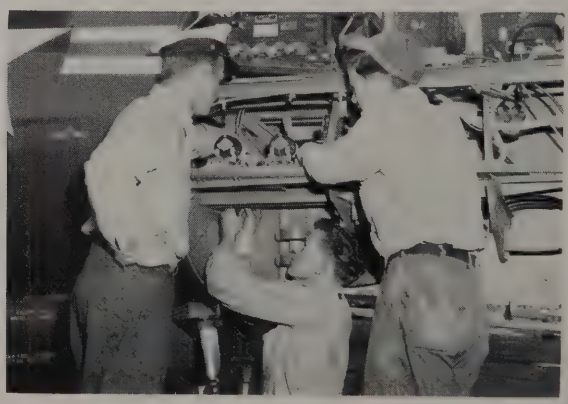
Front row, left to right: Frentress, B. H., Constantino, N. V., Bianchi, L. L., DeWoody, L., Morrell, J. A., Hammond, J. C., Morrison, C. B., Spease, R. J., Lyons, R. S., Smith, W. E. **Second row:** Fabich, J. D., Morrison, B. F., Killion, R. M., Henderson, C. W., Compton, D. V., Swanson, W. A., McAuliffe, P. A., Gray, J. B., Stewart, L. A., Perry, F. E., Krawchak, J. F., Lawrence, W. H., Utterback, R. L. **Third row:** Banando, J. D., Montague, B., Wolter, C. C., Decker, C. W., Shutt, F. J., Kubicek, A. A., Miller, A. D., Sutor, J. W., Berry, D. R., Stevens, J. J., Hunt, R. D., Dean, R. J., Smith, L. W., James, J. L.



Airframes

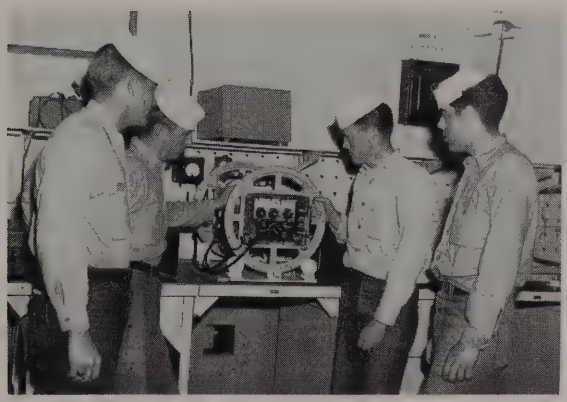
Front row, left to right: Lane, T. S., Taylor, J. F., Lt. Kinney, Lt. Hammond, Lenahan, E. C., Dykema, R. A. **Second row:** Wood, D. E., Bankston, C. L., Rago, V. A., Marler, J. V., Esposito, L. S., Davis, R., Bauer, W. L., Harris, J. F. **Third row:** Caligiuri, R. L., Meyers, J. B., Trivette, H. E., Preble, R. L., Connely, A. P., Bair, J. R., Hazelwood, R. E., Baumgartner, F. G., Ravey, E. E. **Fourth row:** Polaski, R. H., Dowling, G. P., Brooks, J. R., Kennec, B. L.; Poland, W, H., Bennett, A. A., Edin, A. W., Smethers, C. M.

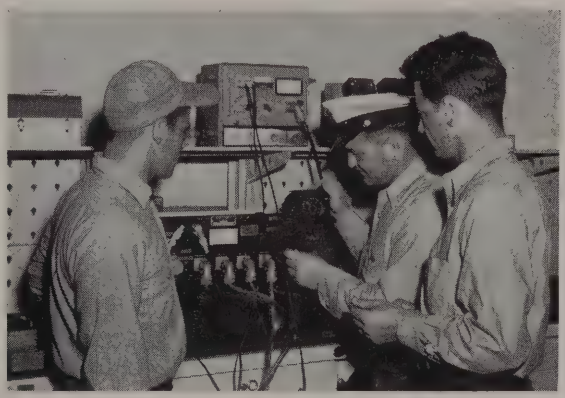


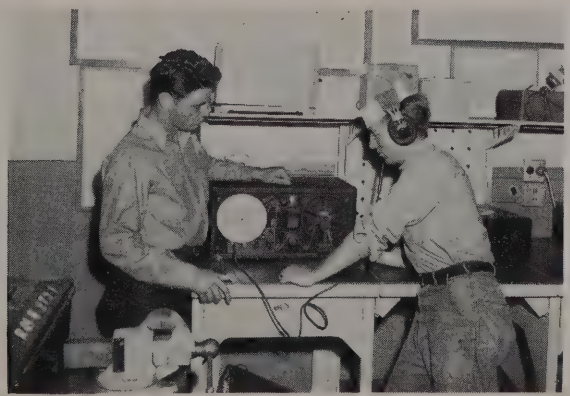


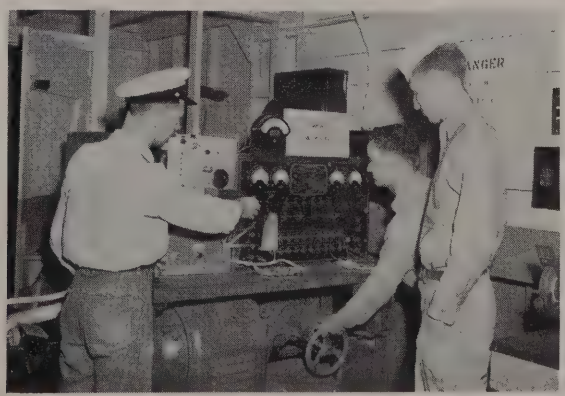
Electronics

Front row, left to right: Little, J. L., Taylor, B. M., Good, H. K., Ensign M. S. Birdt, Lt. J. C. Hammand, Dyson, J. D., Kraushaar, J. F., Cupp, R. E., Duffus, D. D. **Second row:** Trapp, R. L., Bane, C. F., Hughes, R. A., Nance, R. T., Pridgen, E. M., Lovett, C., Lawson, G. G., Sloat, L. D., Hull, N. L., Lance, R. H. **Back row:** Tovares, G. P., Williams, E. R., Saller, W. L., Gaylord, D. W., Delao, J. D., Burrell, L. R., Hocking, C. B., Griggs, R. E., Hendrickson, P. E., Hearn, J. E., McGuire, J. T., Green, A. L.







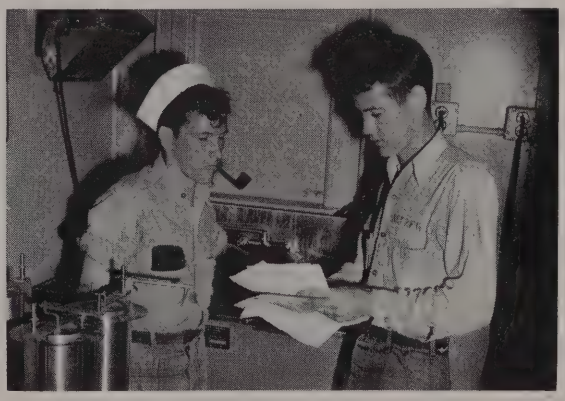


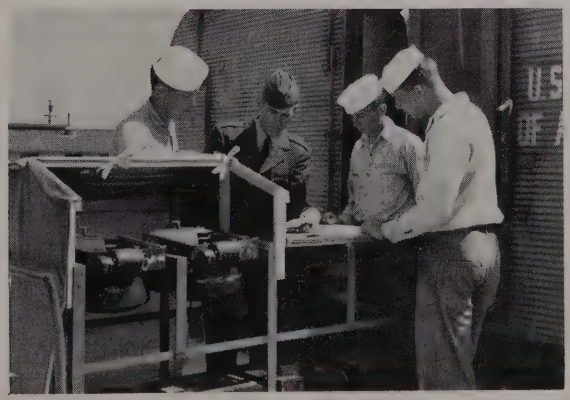
Material

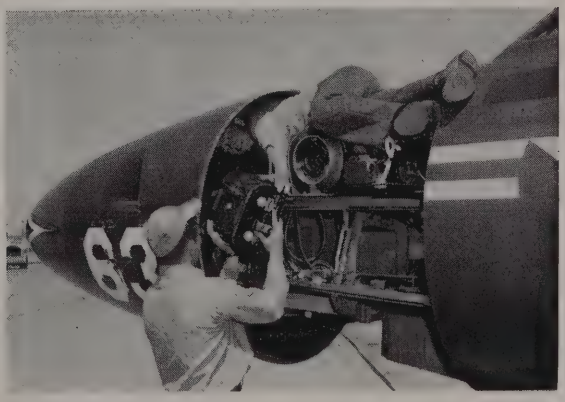
Front row, left to right: Yates, B. E., Simonson, R. V., Endacott, J. A., Hosier, Jr., R. S., Bridges, L. L., Riale, R. P. **Second row:** Bauer, D. N., Morning, H. E., Shershen, A. J., Townsend, A. E.

Photo

Front row, left to right: Hall, D. L., Spence, J. R., Joy, A. J., Colvin, L. A. D., Dutch, G. B., Hein, R. A., Webbeking, R. H., Shope, T. L. **Second row:** Hensel, P. A., Warren, R. D., Miller, J. J., Miller, B. J., Lane, M. G., Brill, D. A., Netzer, R. L., Marble, M. E. **Third row:** Hendricks, B. T., Hargreaves, W. L., Juarez, P. M., Luxford, E. N., Smalley, N. L., Price, R. P., Johnson, W. D., Gehrke, H. R.







Detachment Able
USS Boxer
January 1950—June 1950

LT H. A. Tompkins

LT J. M. Suddreth — LTJG J. Sieckenius

LTJG B. W. Decker

E. S. Chantre	SD1	J. H. Lee	ADAN
C. W. Gilbert	AF3	A. H. Long	AN
E. H. Glenn	AD3	L. E. Napper	AFAN
R. B. Hargreaves	AFC	B. B. Reid	AE3
N. L. Hull	AT3	L. M. Tanner	AMC
B. L. Kennec	AN	J. S. Wolfer	PNSN
J. G. Krawchak	AD3		

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PP
6
PP

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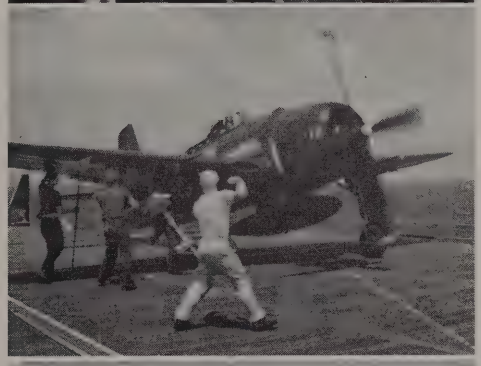

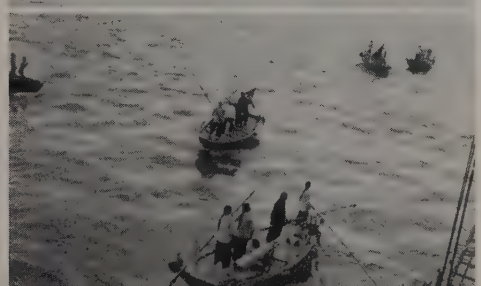

Detachment Charlie
USS Philippine Sea
July 1950—April 1951

LT L. W. Moffit

LT W. D. Wade

LT R. S. Hosier, Jr.

E. S. Chantre	SD1	B. R. Hamlin	AF3
W. P. Cooper	AD3	R. D. Inman	AT3
H. M. Decker	ADC	V. F. Kreiter	ADAN
D. J. Doyle	AO2	B. W. Richey	AD3
V. D. Emmerson	AFC	F. A. Stewart	ADAN
R. C. Finley	AF2		

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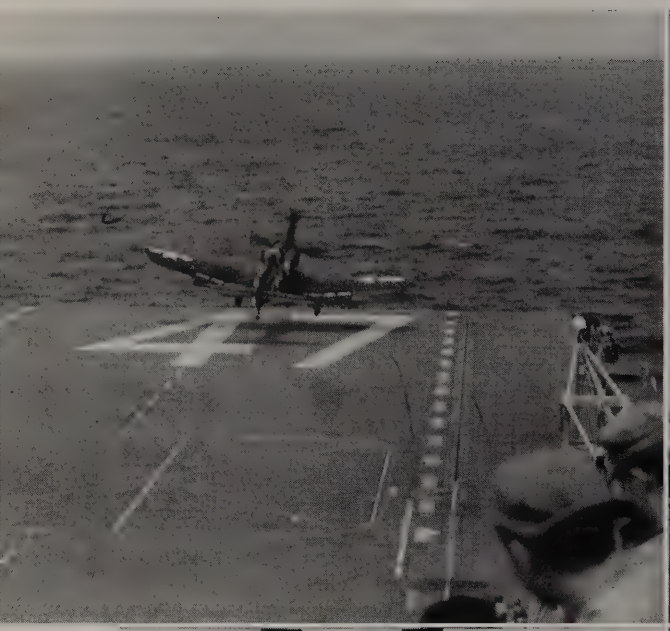

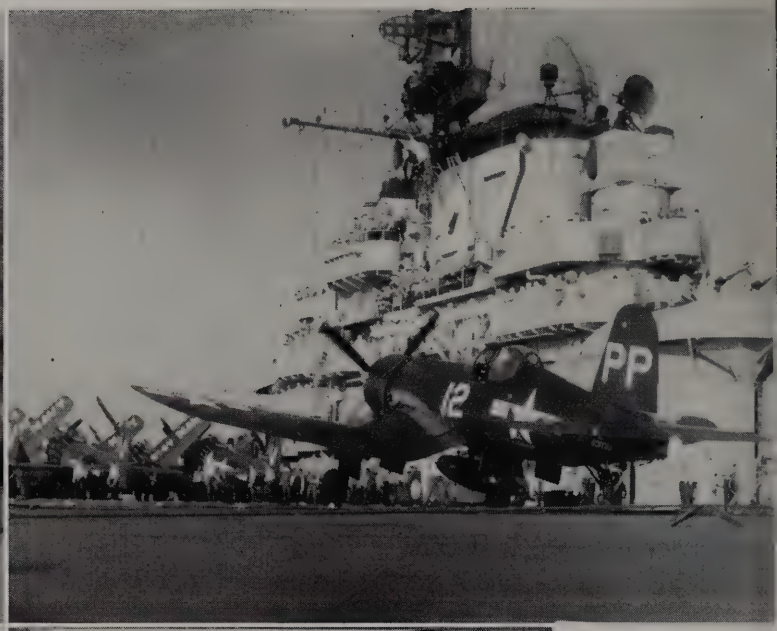
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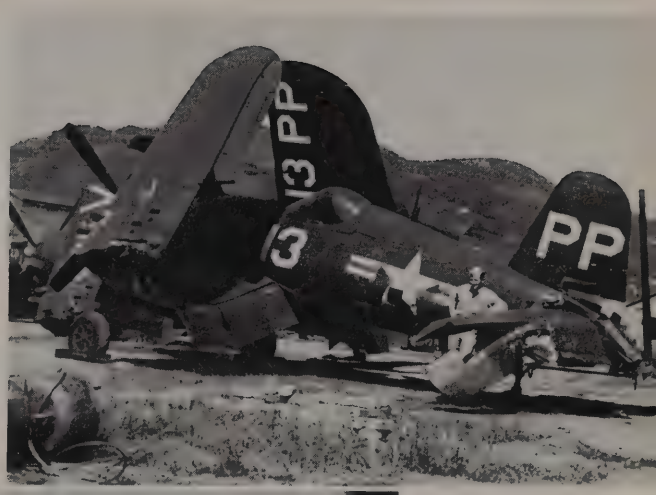
PP
12 PP

NAVY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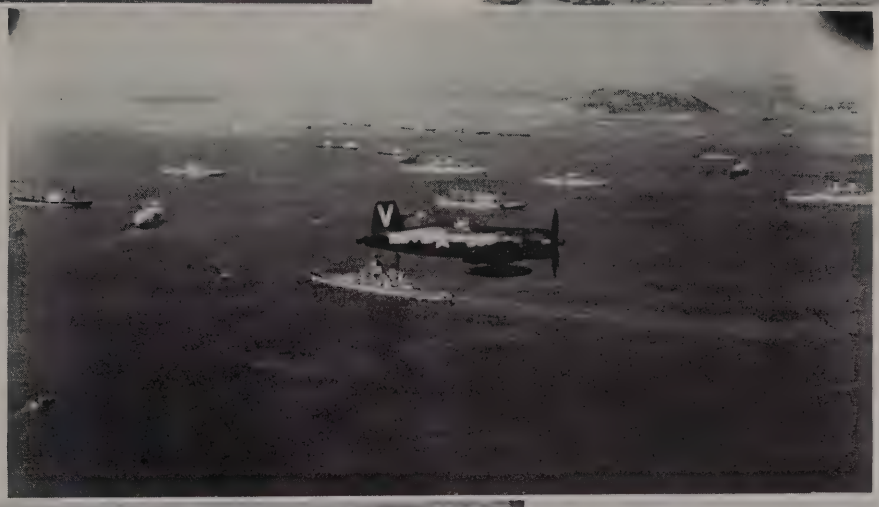
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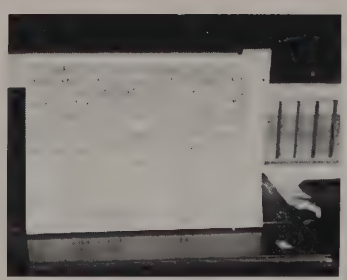
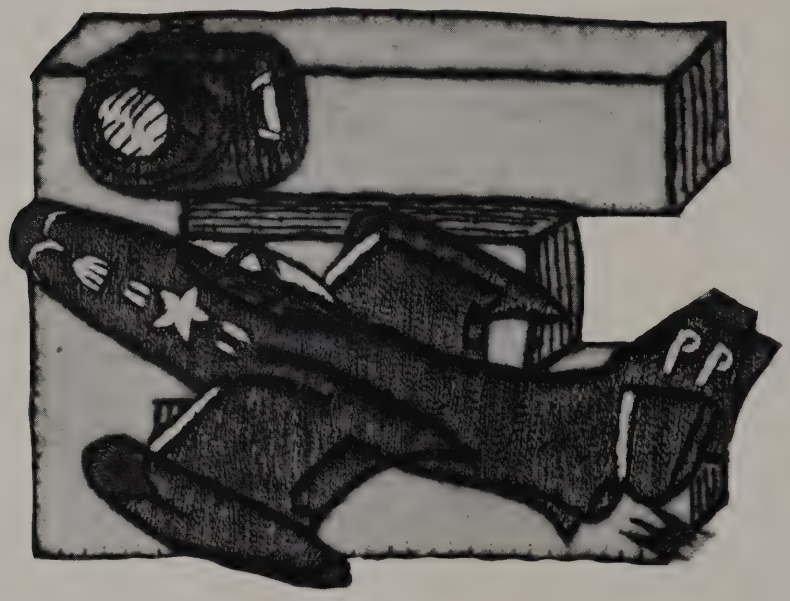


53

Detachment Easy
USS Princeton
October 1950—June 1951



LT C. A. Hooper

LT J. E. Smith

LT G. Elmies

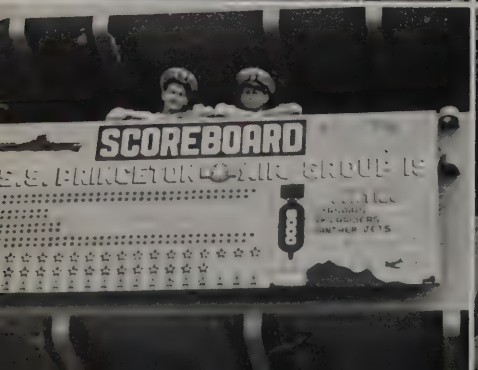
B. E. Adams	AD2
B. J. Baxter	AF3
W. W. Collier	AFC
A. E. Eardley	ADC
D. (N) Gaines	SD1
E. F. Gatlin	AD1
N. L. Hull	AT1
E. O. Kearley	EM2
B. L. Kennec	AM2
M. G. Lane	AF2
B. J. Miller	AF2
L. W. Smith	AD3
J. F. Taylor	AMC

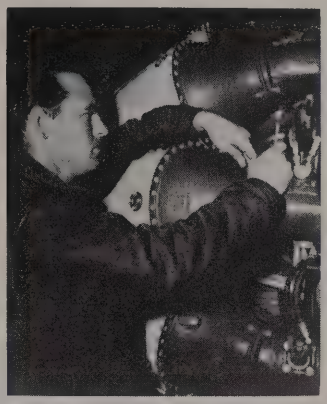
LT. G.A. HOOPER
PP
NAVY
31

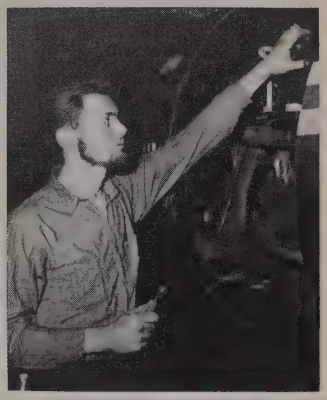
PP
NAVY

NAVY

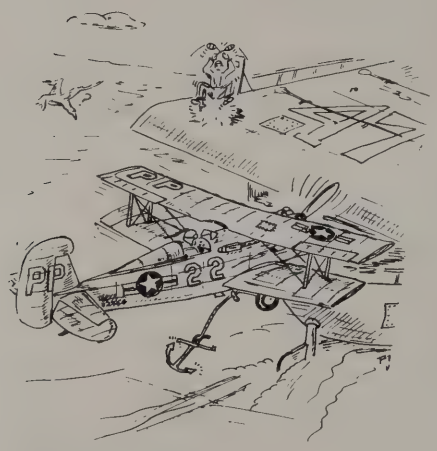
SOUVENIRS


SCOREBOARD





Detachment Fox
USS Valley Forge
USS Philippine Sea
December 1950—June 1951



LCDR F. J. Gibson

LT B. F. McDermott

LT M. W. Mosser

LTJG W. E. Clark

LTJG W. Mohlenhoff

S. A. Arrisi	DE2	J. H. Lee	AD3
B. (n) Boissey	ADC	C. D. MacPherson	AFAN
C. L. Dauphanis	ADC	W. J. McMickle	ADAN
L. G. Hamilton	AFC	R. I. Mollette	AT2
H. D. Hinks	AF3	E. D. Parrott	AOAN
P. R. Knight	AM3	R. L. Rea	ADAN
G. J. Larue	ADAN	A. (n) Scott	SD1

VALLEY FORGE
AIR GROUP 11

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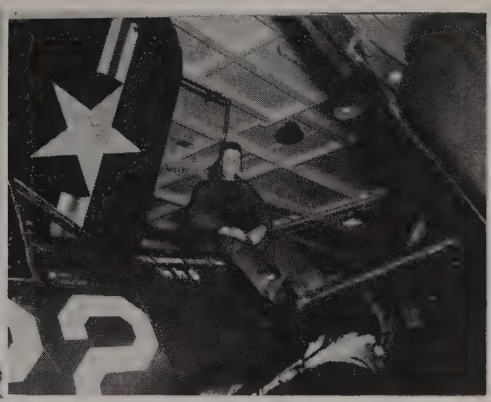

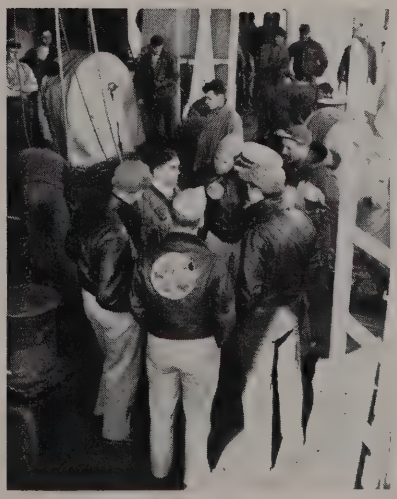

Detachment Able
USS Boxer
March 1951—October 1951

LCDR H. A. Tompkins

LT R. N. Brown

LT J. E. Hotvedt

LTJG M. S. Birdt

R. E. Cupp	AT2
R. S. Edwards	AD3
R. L. Frazier	AD2
P. A. Hensel	AF2
W. M. Hodges	AD1
W. L. Kleier	AF1
J. G. Krawchak	AD1(T)
W. E. Mathis	ADAN
J. J. Miller	AFAN
E. E. Ravey, Jr.	AM1
H. J. Rodgers	ADAN
T. I. Settle	ADC
B. M. Taylor	AE2
R. E. Todhunter	AD1
J. J. Vandyke	TA
H. L. Warner	AD3
M. D. Willman	AF2

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NAVY

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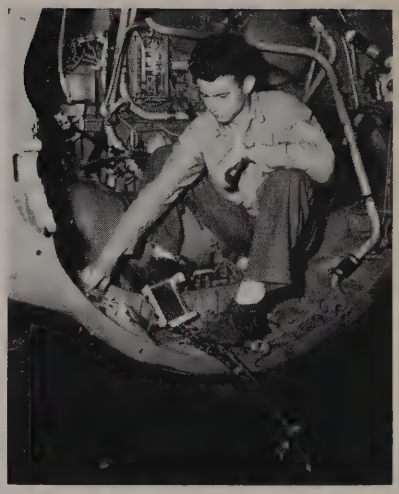

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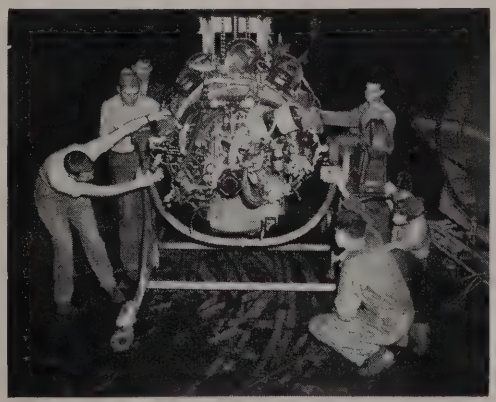
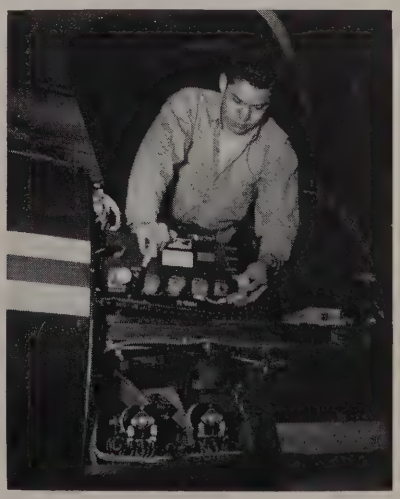




Detachment Charlie
USS Princeton
May 1951—September 1951

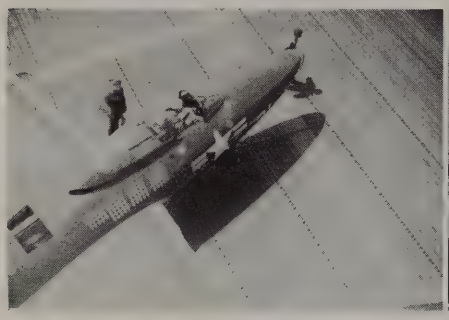
LT J. F. Grosser

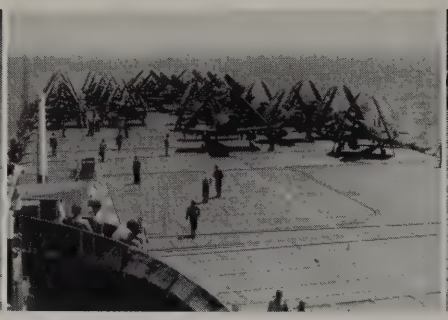
LT F. J. Brown

LTJG C. V. Choyce

LTJG H. W. Wagner

C. F. Bane	AT3
J. R. Brooks	AM3
T. F. Brown	AF2
M. (n) Davis	TN
L. (n) DeWoody	ADC
B. R. Hamlin	AF2
C. W. Henderson	AD1
G. C. Lawson	AE3
B. F. Morrison, Jr.	AN
P. J. Pagano	AN
C. C. Pallotto	AN
J. F. Read	AA
D. T. Stansky	AA
L. A. Thompson	AF3
R. P. Turner	AA
A. I. White	AF1





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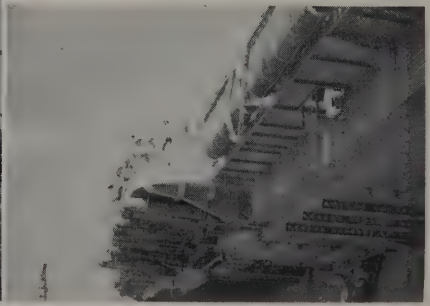
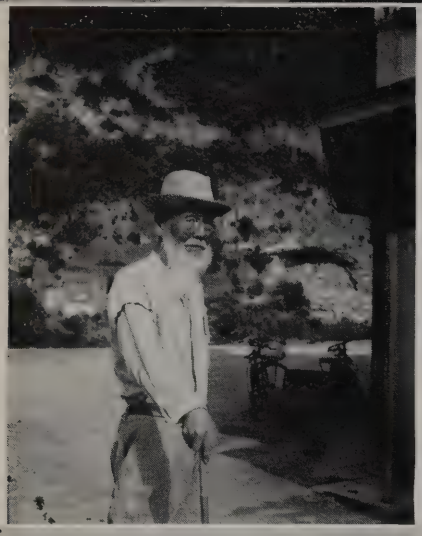
AVY

PP



KONDO S-HOTEN



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NAVY

船共済病
浜共済病院
浦共済
須賀共済病

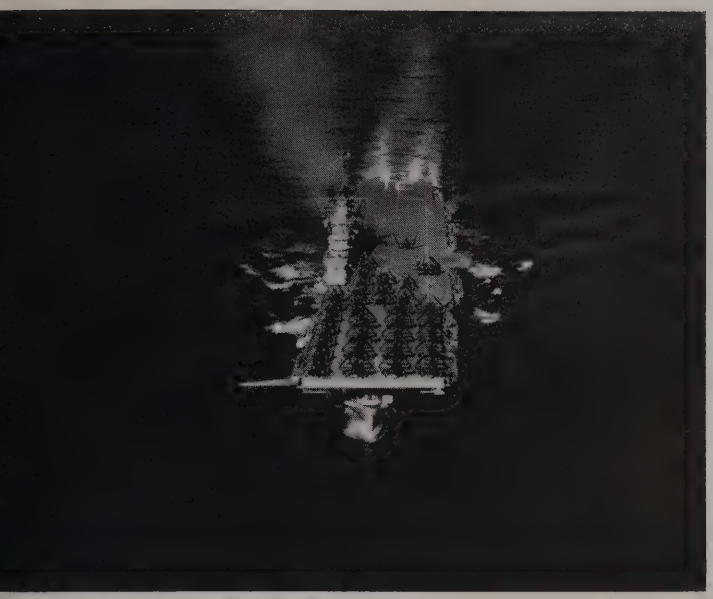
Detachment Baker
USS Bon Homme Richard
May 1951 – December 1951

LT W. J. Westmoreland

LT C. N. Frisbie — LTJG R. M. Shrewsbury

LTJG R. T. Somerville

J. W. Bradley	TN	J. L. Little	AT2
C. A. Deer	ADEC	J. I. Mikels	AN
G. P. Dowling	AN	R. L. Netzer	AF2
J. W. Fernandez	AD2	R. P. Price	AF1
C. W. Gilbert	AF2	J. W. Randall	ADE3
R. S. Green	AN	M. D. Rios	AD3
J. E. Hearn	AE3	D. C. Shultz	AN
R. A. Hein	AFC	J. D. Whittet	AD2



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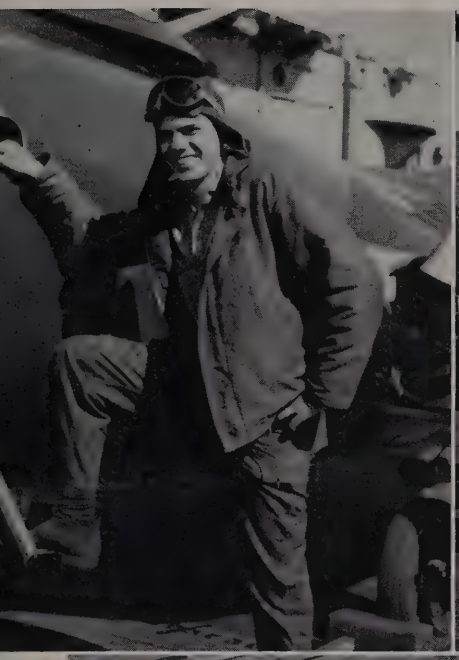

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JEARP
154
Look

153

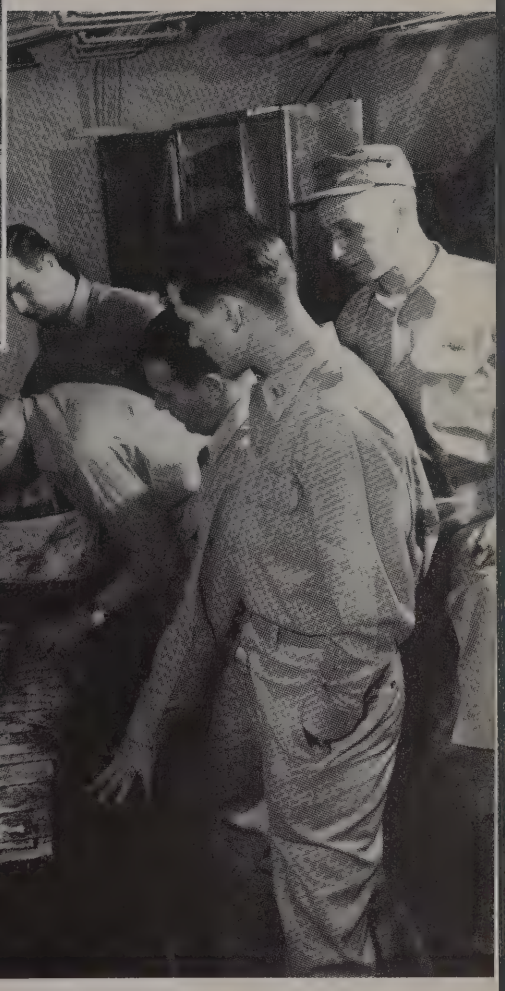
Detachment Baker
USS Essex
June 1951—March 1952

LT S. L. Jaynes

LT L. E. Ray — LT R. Z. Parks

LTJG R. E. Risdal

A. A. Annis	AF2(T)
C. L. Bankston	AM3
L. L. Bianchi	ADC
P. W. Blom	AD3
S. C. Couch	YNT3
W. C. Hyden	AT2(T)
J. L. James	AD3
A. J. Joy	AFCA(T)
R. J. Kane	AF2
V. H. Karrasch	AD3
E. N. Luxford	AF2
L. L. McKeller	AMAN
W. M. Mitchell	TN
J. A. Moore	AN
R. A. Reich	AFAN
A. G. Ruhl	AF3
S. (n) Scott	AF1
F. J. Shutt	AD3
F. R. Sieckman	AE3
L. R. Watkins	AD1
R. H. Williams	AD3
D. E. Wood	AMAN



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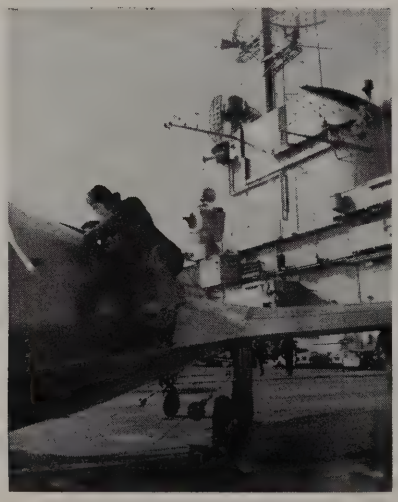

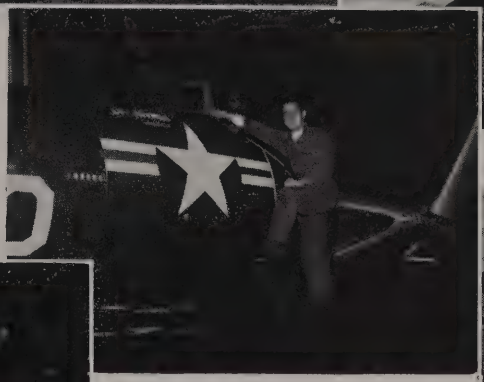

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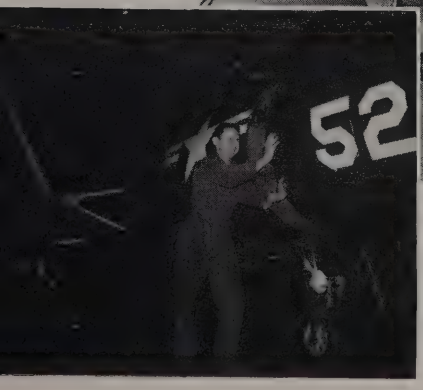
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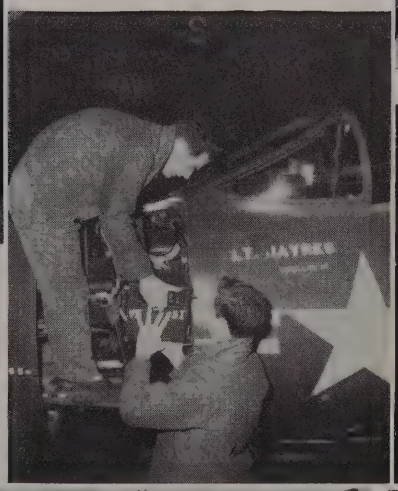

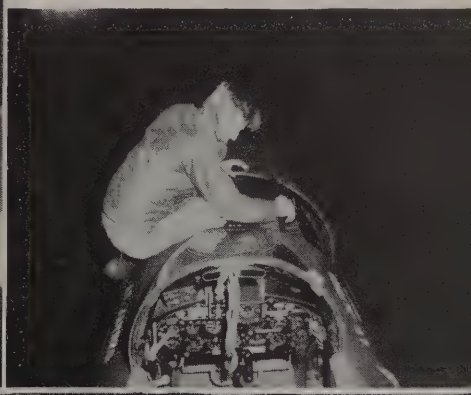

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Detachment Dog
USS Antietam
August 1951 — May 1952

LT G. C. Young

LT A. S. Kalas, Jr. LTJG L. R. Peters

ENS E. D. McKeller, Jr.

D. (n) Barber, Jr.	SN
A. J. Brown	AN
F. A. Burghardt	AF3
L. E. Carpenter	AMAN
F. E. Draper	ADAN
D. (n) Gaines	AD1
V. L. Gregorin	AN
B. R. Hamlin	AF2
R. E. Handschy	AN
O. E. Hibschle	AE2
K. W. Howell	AM3
D. O. Jacquemart	AD3
J. R. Kelly	AD3
V. F. Krieter	AD3
L. T. Letchworth	AT1
M. C. Majors	ADC
W. L. Savard	AMAN
T. B. Warwick	AF2
E. J. Lanzer	AD3

THE FLYING
IS ON THE WAY

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411

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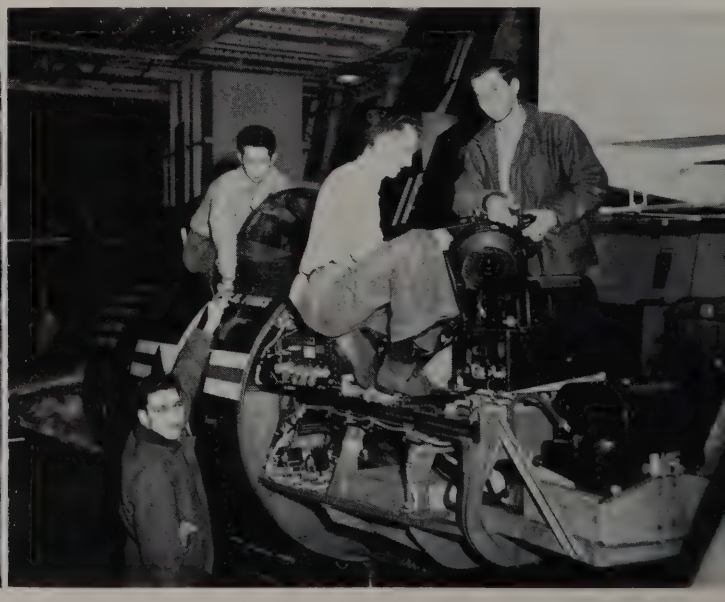
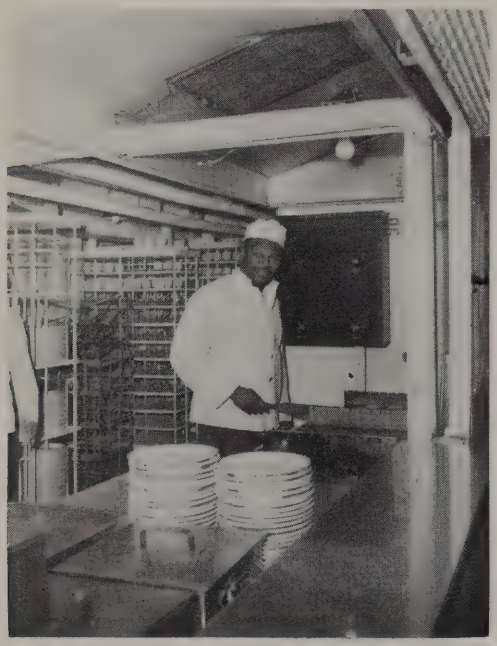


LT. PAPA SAN YOUNG

71



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Detachment How
USS Valley Forge
October 1951—July 1952

LT C. A. Hooper

LTJG A. Hoff

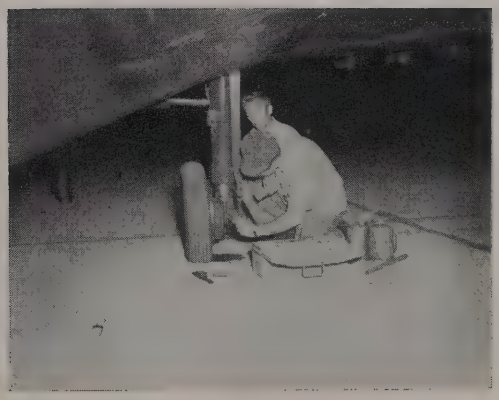
LTJG M. H. Warner

LTJG L. M. York

E. J. Allen	AN	L. J. Levine	AD1
R. L. Anderson	AD3	R. D. Mills	AF2
J. R. Baumgartner	ADC	J. G. Morford	AFC
F. (n) Boyd	YN3	M. A. Muegge	AE2
G. L. Bridenbaugh	AFAN	C. J. V. Robertson	AD3
J. L. Brooks	AD3	D. J. Rollins	AM1
J. P. Broyles	AD3	G. W. Schimke	AN
W. B. Broyles	AD3	J. M. Simmons	AN
L. O. Hamblen	AD2	M. D. Sweeney	AD3
H. D. Hinks	AF2	J. W. Wilburn	TN
R. D. Inman	AT2	D. G. Young	PR2

NAVY

NA



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NAV

Detachment Charlie
USS Philippine Sea
December 1951—August 1952

LCDR R. L. Nall

LTJG P. T. Corrigan

ENS J. H. Herbst

ENS L. Z. Taylor

W. G. Boyer	AE3
G. W. Davies	ADE3
M. (n) Davis	TN
W. J. Elsome, Jr.	AFAN
K. G. Hedtke	ADAN
W. A. Kappele	ADAN
R. G. Lumley	AF1
E. M. Marion	AD3
R. C. Myers	AA
F. H. Pelkey	AN
E. W. Ramm	JO3
M. J. Romanoski	AD3
E. J. Sharp	AD3
N. L. Smalley	AF2
J. E. Scott	AMC
M. P. Sollecito	AMAN
S. J. Springer	AFC
M. L. Watson	ATAN
D. E. Wert	AF3
R. S. Wilson	AA
E. J. Wojtowicz	AD2

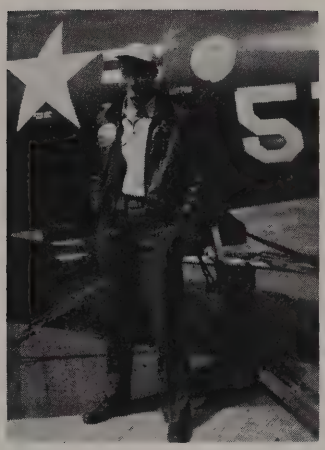
Detachment Able
USS Boxer
February 1952—

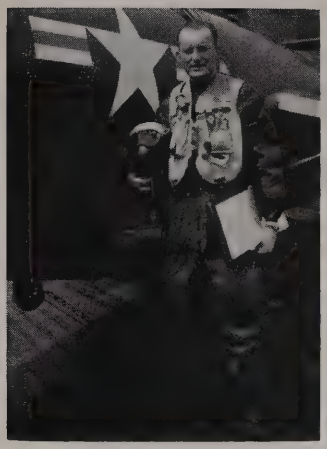
LT J. Harris

LT H. J. Voll — LTJG F. W. Smith

LTJG K. L. Bernstein — ENS J. D. Meyer

B. E. Berry AF2
B. B. Breeding ..... AN
E. S. Chantre SD1
R. W. Chapman AD3
B. E. Cummings AD3
J. B. Janes AE3
W. A. Jenkins YNT3
J. R. Kissell ..... AFAN
V. C. Lammers ..... AA
R. L. Leibold ..... ATAN
C. D. MacPherson AF3
J. B. Marner ..... AMAN
S. S. McBride ..... AA
T. J. Mitchell ..... AA
P. A. Protz ..... AMAN
J. F. Read ..... AN
J. D. Steinrucken ..... AA
C. C. Taylor ..... AFAN
H. E. Well AD1
W. E. Woolsey ..... ADC
R. L. Zook ..... AA





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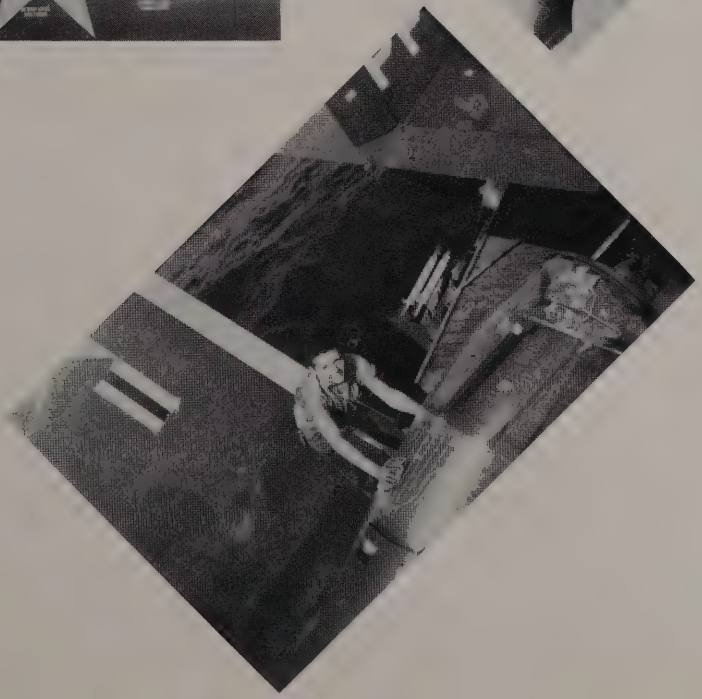


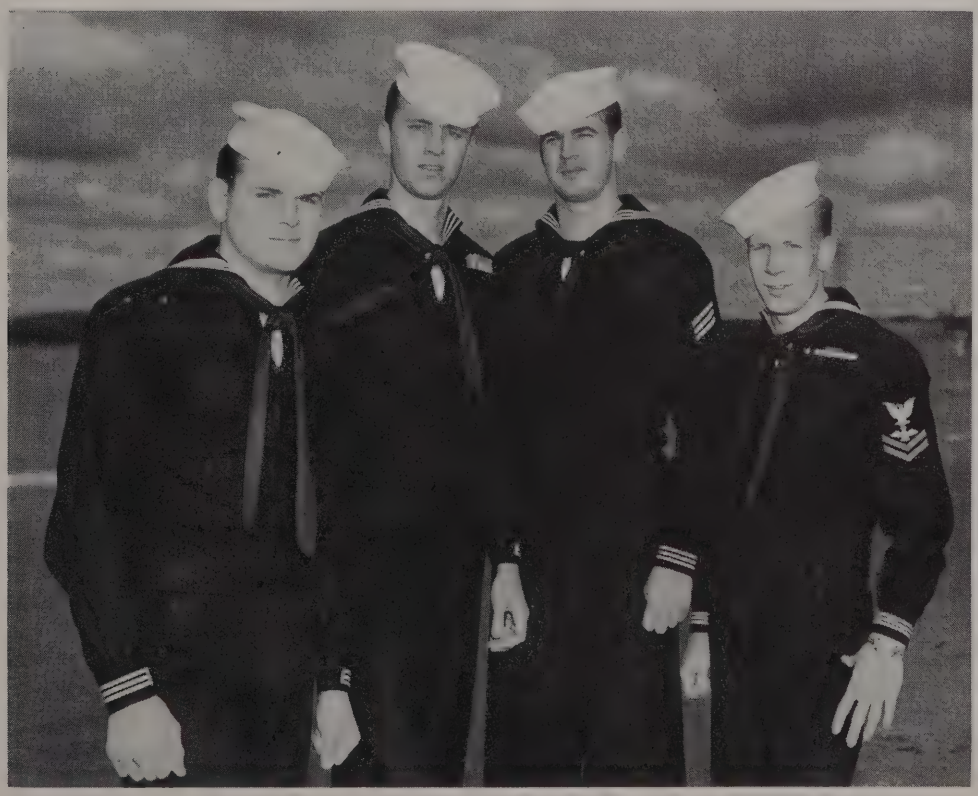
Detachment Easy
USS Princeton
March 1952—

LT E. (n) Sumner

LT W. L. Dowlin
LT C. E. Durrett

ENS S. D. Kramer
ENS P. M. Burke

S. E. Brown	AN
A. F. Cooper	AE3
A. E. Eardley	ADC
W. A. Ellis	AD3
C. D. Finlayson	AN
J. E. Flack	ADAN
A. D. Hull	AN
W. A. Martin, Jr.	AN
M. L. Maxwell	AN
R. G. Meeks	AN
E. J. Overton	AD3
R. E. Pelkey	AA
H. L. Sasseen, Jr.	AFAN
A. P. Smith	AFAN
D. T. Stansky	ADAN
L. A. Thompson	AF2
C. J. Tomac	AD1
J. C. Vieley	ALAN
J. L. Wade	TN
S. H. Ziglinski	PH3



Detachment Nan
USS Bon Homme Richard
March 1952—

LT C. H. Yeagle

LT B. R. Smith — LT E. V. Crangle

LTJG C. V. Choyce

J. D. Apple	AD3
B. A. Brill	PH3
G. T. Bush	ADAN
B. W. Cheek	AN
R. E. Decker	AD3
R. S. Green	AD3
M. G. Lane	AF2
J. V. Marler	AM3
J. E. McGranahan	AN
J. B. Meyers	AMAN
R. I. Mollette	AT2
A. (n) Scott	SD1
L. D. Sloat	AECA(T)
R. (n) Stark	AFC
J. J. Stevens	AD1
W. E. Stone	AN
R. H. Webbeking	AFAN
F. G. Wellborn	AN
L. R. Wilfong	AN

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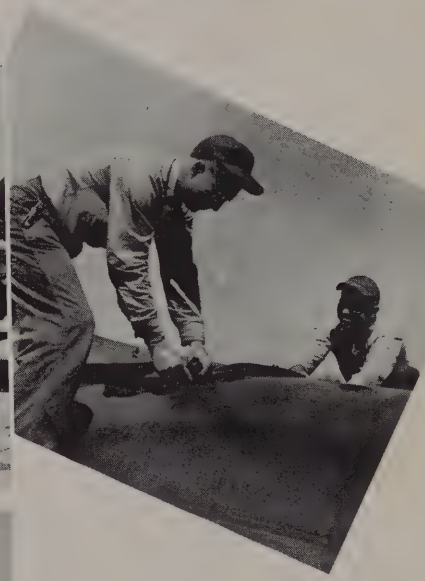

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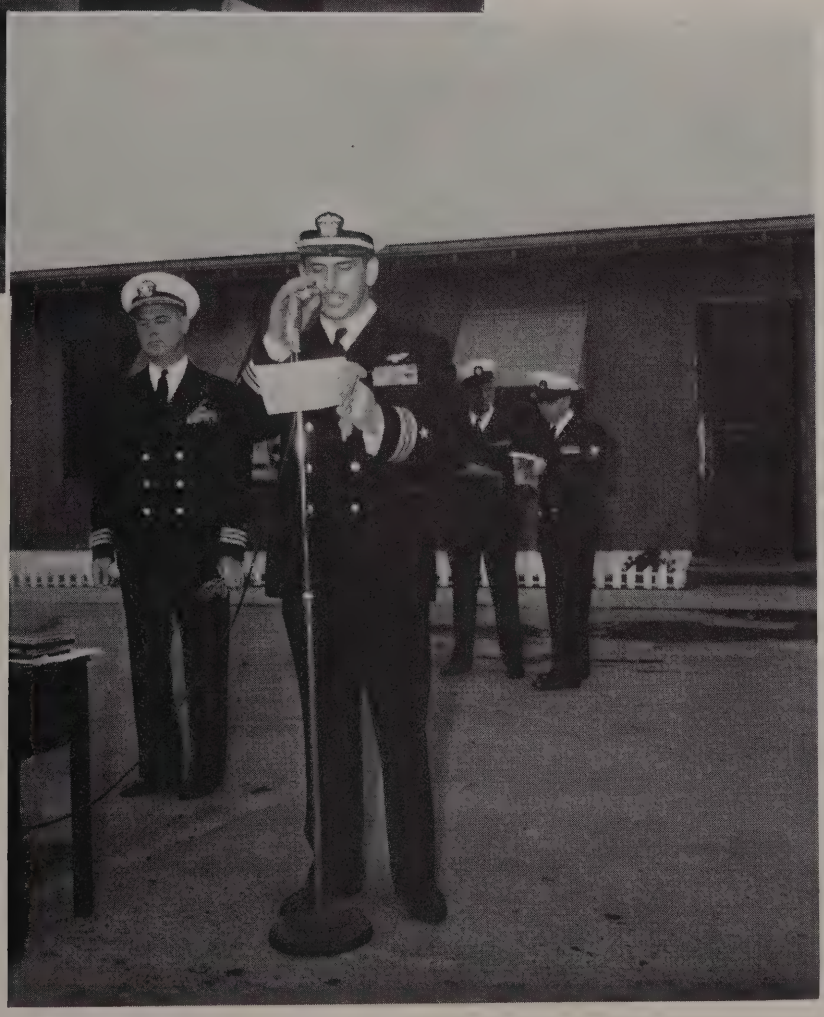
Change of Command Inspection and Awards

Change of Command



Farewell Party for Cdr. H. W. Crews

In Memoriam

CDR L. S. WALL, JR.

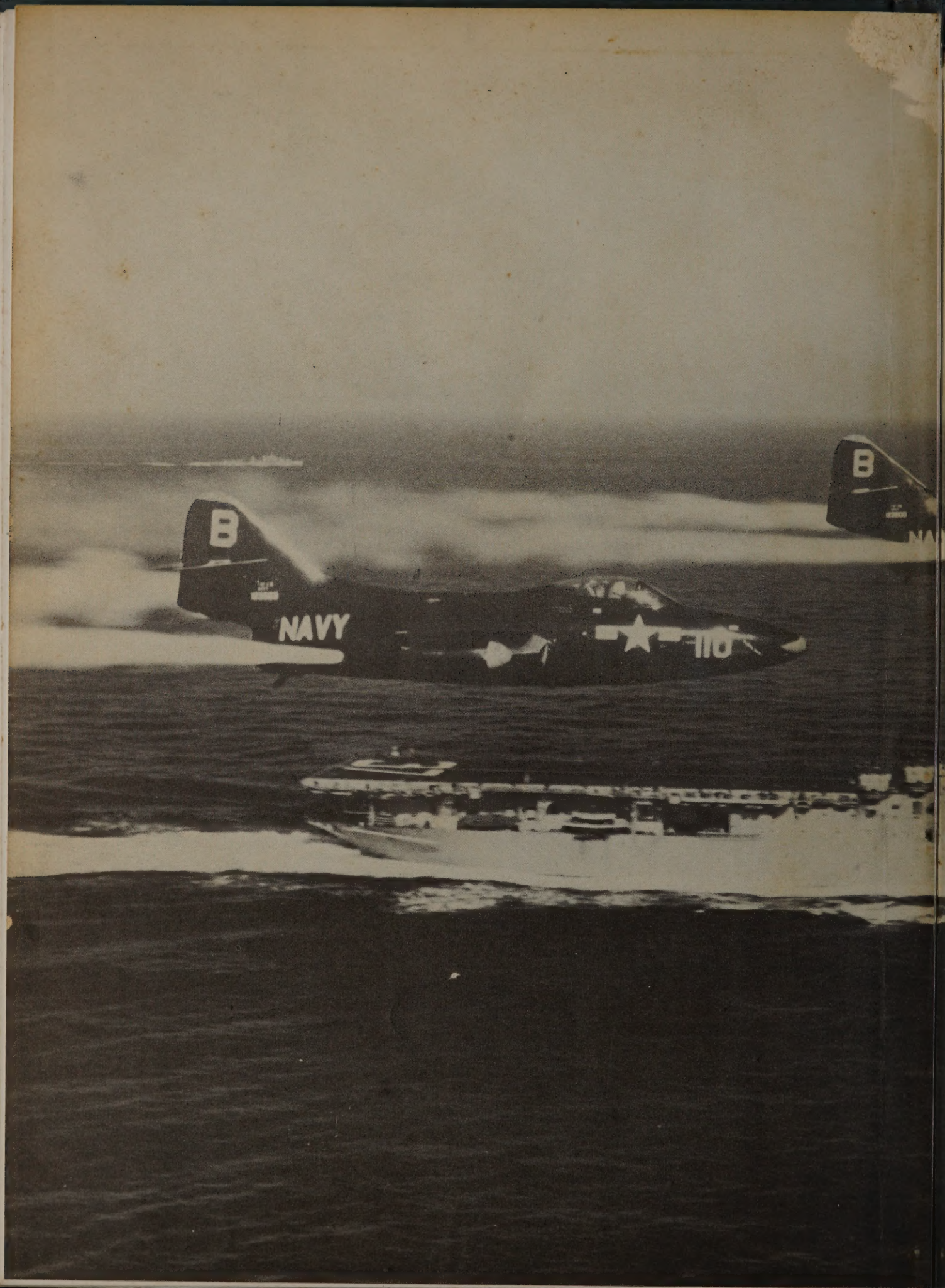
LT C. G. MILLER

LTJG A. HOFF

LT C. SERGUN

W. J. WALROSE, JR., AO1

ENS M. L. ANDERSON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110
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